

WILLIAMSON COUNTS



Issue I

Williamson County's 2020 Census Guide

October 15, 2019

A message from Mayor Rogers C. Anderson

Citizens of Williamson County:

A critical event that shapes the future of Williamson County in several ways is fast approaching. The 2020 Census will begin formal operations at the start of the New Year and I want to reach out to every single Williamson Countian and encourage them to participate in our democracy and fill out their 2020 United States Census form.

We have created this newsletter, "Williamson Counts", to get the basics of the census out to residents in every corner of the county and to illustrate how vital it is to our community that you respond when the forms begin to arrive in your mailboxes in March 2020.

Though many across the nation may see it as a hindrance that doesn't affect them, I want to assure you that each and every response is important, and it ensures that Williamson County gets our

fair share.

The United States Government uses data from every census to determine where to allocate over \$675 billion of federal money. These funds go to schools, infrastructure plans, hospitals, emergency response teams, and so many other services vital to the everyday operation of our county and the cities within it.

Census data is also used to determine your representatives in every level of government, from the US Congress to your aldermen and county commissioners.

There are only 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives by law, and the Census determines which states gain and lose seats, and where those new districts are located. The State of Tennessee utilizes this data to do the same with both houses of the Tennessee General Assembly. District lines are redrawn locally based on this data, meaning that cities and counties can gain or lose alderman, commissioners,

and board members across all departments, from the County Commission to the Board of Education.

This newsletter will be updated periodically with new information regarding census outreach events sponsored by the Williamson County Complete Count Committee. Census Day falls on April 1, 2020. The county will be working to promote the Census before then, but Census Day is a special day with special events that will be organized by the Complete Count Committee and promoted in this publication, among other outlets.

Remember, your answers are protected by federal law and nothing you put on a Census form can be used against you in any way, by anyone. It is my sincere hope that you take the information in this publication and use it to make your 2020 Census experience hassle free.

Rogers C. Anderson
Williamson County Mayor

Dates to Remember

January 1, 2020

The Census Bureau will begin official operations in remote areas of Alaska.

April 1, 2020

Census Day. Every household in America will have received a questionnaire by this point and events will be held nationwide to encourage people to respond.

May 2020

Local Census employees will begin knocking on doors of households who have not responded via mail, phone, or Online.

December 2020

As required by law, the Census Bureau delivers the 2020 Census Report to the President and to Congress.

Help Wanted

The Nashville Area Census Office is looking for help, and you are a perfect fit! Field, office, and recruiting jobs are available. Wages range from \$17 to \$23 per hour.

For more info, call 1-888-480-1639 or apply now at 2020Census.gov/jobs.

The Census Around the County

Recruiters like Bill Bugg, Bob Wilkins, and Gretchen Anderson, and partnership specialists like Naadzama O. Ashby, will be at different gatherings and events around the county, informing residents about the upcoming census and hoping to recruit some extra hands as the census nears.



(L-R) Anderson, Ashby, Mayor Anderson, Bugg, and Wilkins at the Williamson Inc. meeting at the Cool Springs Marriott



EVERYONE COUNTS

Williamson County Community Development will release new issues of the "Williamson Counts" newsletter for the remainder of 2019 and into 2020 to educate county residents on the value and importance of the census and to inform you on efforts of the county government to ensure that everyone counts.

What does the Census actually do?

- The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal tax dollars, which helps schools, senior centers, road and highway projects, hospitals, first responders and emergency programs, among other vital programs and services
- Proportioning the seats in the US House of Representatives to ensure equal representation
- Helps local districts redraw district lines to ensure accurate representation on the local and state level
- Provides businesses, utilities, and services data to help them expand their service areas
- Data provided to school districts is vital in drawing accurate districts and determining where new schools will be built
- Many, many other vital parts of our society

Hard To Count Committee

In addition to this newsletter and our partnership with various community elements in the county, the Williamson County Complete Count Committee has created a "Hard To Count" subcommittee to specialize outreach to communities where response rates to the 2010 Census were lower than anticipated.

Representatives of various communities throughout the county, from both urban and rural areas, in partnership with local Census Bureau representatives, will formulate outreach programs to ensure a strong county-wide response to the 2020 Census.

Specific areas of focus include areas within the city limits of Franklin and the rural corners of the county. These areas had lower levels of response than the rest of the county in 2010, and the CCC hopes to reach out to these communities and improve responses.



The September 11, 2019 Hard To Count Committee meeting at the Williamson County Administrative Complex

The 2020 United States Census and Confidentiality

Some people might feel hesitant to respond to the census because they fear what the information they give may be used for. Any fears about the use of census data are soothed by federal law.

Title 13, Section 9 of the United States Code forbids any employee of the Census Bureau, or indeed the federal government

as a whole, to access the information given by households during the Census.

This section of the US Code has withstood several legal challenges over the years.

In the 1982 case of *Baldrige v. Shapiro*, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed

that census data, including addresses, is confidential and cannot be obtained through legal discovery or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

In 2010, the Department of Justice determined that the PATRIOT Act does not negate the private nature of census responses and cannot be used to

gain that information. Furthermore, no court in the nation can gain census information via subpoena.

No law enforcement agency, local, state, or federal, can access census data for any reason.

Just remember, your responses **CANNOT** be used against you in any way.